

FAQ's Regarding Student Teaching

What is a student contact day?

Any day (5 hours or longer) that you have worked with students in the schools in which you are student teaching. This includes weekends but does not include teacher institute days.

If I finish my 30 student contact days can I stop early?

No! You may, however, switch to the next site once you have completed the 30 contact days. This is providing you have discussed it with your cooperating teacher and your supervising teacher.

Do I have to take a spring or fall break?

If it works best in your schedule to place the spring break at the end, this is certainly an option. Fall breaks at the K-12 level do not exist. You do not take the same breaks as VanderCook.

If I am student teaching with two different cooperating teachers, how do I decide which site to go to first?

This is a decision you need to make based on information you receive from your cooperating teachers. If you need help, please make an appointment with Mr. Palese. Ask the following questions and come to a decision that will provide the best learning environment for you and the students.

When are the contests/festivals?

When are the concerts?

When is spring break? (Spring only)

Is there a musical theater production happening?

Ask the cooperating teacher which half they feel would be best for you to be assigned to their school.

What should I do if I am sick or have an emergency and cannot go into school?

Call your cooperating teacher first and let them know you will not be in. Send an email to your supervising teacher and cc Mr. Palese.

Do I need to make up these days?

Yes.

What should I do if I am going to be late for school?

This is NOT an option. You will NOT be late for school!

What if I have a concert on the afternoon of the reception or night of one of the student teacher seminars?

This is the only excused absence from a student teacher seminar or reception. Any other absence will affect your final student teaching grade.

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What do I need to do to prepare for my supervising teacher's visits?

- First, contact your supervisor early and provide a list of dates that work well for you and your cooperating teacher.
- Once your supervisor confirms a date and time, you will need to clear it again with your cooperating teacher.
- Provide detailed directions to the school as well as detailed information about how to get in the school and where to check-in.
- Plan to meet your supervisor at the check-in point and guide them to your classroom.
- You will need to supply a written lesson plan to the supervisor at every visit.
- You should also have your notebook/journal on hand for the supervisor to look over.
- Remember to dress professionally and pick days when you know the supervisor will get to see you teach.

Will my supervising teacher ever show up for an observation unannounced?

No. You will know when your supervisor is planning a visit for assessment.

Do I need to provide assessment forms to my supervising teacher?

No. You will provide forms to your cooperating teacher and you have forms for the self-assessments. Your supervisor has already been given assessment forms.

If the school has a casual Friday, may I participate?

Yes, but only to a business casual level.

If my cooperating teacher is not attending, do I still need to attend the reception?

Yes.

What do I need to bring to my exit interview?

You need to bring the following items to your exit interview:

- Typed journal – one entry for each day you student taught labeled by date
- Completed and signed interviews
- Supporting materials you have collected throughout the experience
- The Unit of Study or Project that you implemented while Student Teaching